

“(5) the claim is substantiated as prescribed in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (d).

“(C) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.—(1) If the Secretary of Defense determines, pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary under subsection (d), that a claim under this section in excess of \$100,000 is meritorious, and the claim is otherwise payable under this section, the Secretary may pay the claimant \$100,000 and report any meritorious amount in excess of \$100,000 to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment under section 1304 of title 31.

“(2) Except as provided in paragraph (1), no claim may be paid under this section unless the amount tendered is accepted by the claimant in full satisfaction.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement this section.

“(2) Regulations prescribed by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Policies and procedures to ensure the timely, efficient, and effective processing and administration of claims under this section, including—

“(i) the filing, receipt, investigation, and evaluation of a claim;

“(ii) the negotiation, settlement, and payment of a claim; and

“(iii) such other matters relating to the processing and administration of a claim, including an administrative appeals process, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(B) A process through which any claimant who pursues an administrative appeal of a claim will be provided with an opportunity to participate in a live hearing regarding such appeal, which may be attended by the claimant in-person or remotely through electronic means.

“(C) Uniform standards consistent with generally accepted standards used in a majority of States in adjudicating claims under chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims Act’) to be applied to the evaluation, settlement, and payment of claims under this section without regard to the place of occurrence of the sex-related offense giving rise to the claim or the military department of the covered individual, and without regard to foreign law in the case of claims arising in foreign countries, including uniform standards to be applied to determinations with respect to—

“(i) whether an act or omission by a covered individual was negligent or wrongful, considering the specific facts and circumstances;

“(ii) whether the personal injury or death of the claimant was caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission of a covered individual;

“(iii) requirements relating to proof of duty, breach of duty, and causation resulting in compensable injury or loss, subject to such exclusions as may be established by the Secretary of Defense; and

“(iv) calculation of damages, except that any standard establishing a maximum limit on noneconomic damages may not limit such damages to less than \$800,000.

“(D) A requirement that any maximum limit on noneconomic damages shall be not less than \$800,000.

“(E) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(3) In order to implement expeditiously the provisions of this section, the Secretary may prescribe the regulations under this subsection—

“(A) by prescribing an interim final rule; and

“(B) not later than one year after prescribing such interim final rule and considering public comments with respect to such

interim final rule, by prescribing a final rule.

“(e) LIMITATIONS ON ATTORNEY FEES.—(1) No attorney shall charge, demand, receive, or collect for services rendered, fees in excess of 20 percent of any claim paid pursuant to this section.

“(2) Any attorney who charges, demands, receives, or collects for services rendered in connection with a claim under this section any amount in excess of the amount allowed under paragraph (1), if recovery be had, shall be fined not more than \$2,000, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

“(3) The United States shall not be liable for any attorney fees of a claimant under this section.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually until 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report—

“(1) indicating the number of claims processed under this section;

“(2) indicating the resolution of each such claim; and

“(3) describing any other information that may enhance the effectiveness of the claims process under this section.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means a member of the armed forces or an employee of the Department of Defense.

“(2) The term ‘sex-related offense’ has the meaning given that term in section 1044e(h) of this title.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 163 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2733a the following new item:

“2733b. Claims arising from sex-related offenses.”

(b) INTERIM BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the development of regulations under section 2733b(d) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2735 of such title is amended by inserting “2733b,” after “2733a.”

(2) Section 1304(a)(3)(D) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “2733b,” after “2733a.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITION PROVISION.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any claim filed under section 2733b of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1), on or after January 1, 2022.

(2) TRANSITION.—Any claim filed in calendar year 2021 shall be deemed to be filed within the time period specified in section 2733b(b)(2) of such title, as so added, if it is filed within three years after it accrues.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 116-260, on behalf of the Majority Leader of the Senate, appoints the following individual as a member of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Advisory Council: Crystal Peoples Stokes of New York.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that

when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 28; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Donfried nomination, with the time until 11:30 a.m. equally divided prior to a vote on the nomination; further, that following the disposition of the Donfried nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Medina nomination and immediately recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed on Tuesday, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, the first rollcall on the confirmation of the Donfried nomination will be at 11:30 a.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SULLIVAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND DELIVERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to talk about transparency, and I want to talk about the need for transparency here in the U.S. Senate more than ever.

The House and the Senate are moving with breakneck speed to pass one of the biggest, most reckless spending social bills in U.S. history, over \$3½ trillion—a spending spree that will be the largest in a generation—which will include the largest tax hike that we have seen in peacetime and something that the majority leader himself has called the largest transformation in a generation.

Make no mistake. This is trying to transform America—cradle to grave socialism. Don't take my word for it. Here is the way the New York Times described this \$3½ trillion reckless spending bill from the House coming to the Senate. It is legislation that would touch virtually every American's life from conception to age and infirmity, from cradle to grave. That is the New York Times. In other words, the Federal Government will be involved in all facets of every single American life, from birth to death—one of the biggest